No Objection to Declassification in Part 2013/03/19 : LOC-HAK-557-2-4-7

15 October 1973

DCI BRIEFING FOR
15 October WSAG Meeting

THE MIDDLE EAST

I. There has been considerable ground and air activity over both fronts since our last meeting, but no significant change in the battle positions.

A. Both sides admit that there was a major battle in the Sinai yesterday, but the Egyptians do not appear to have made any substantial gains.

B. [redacted]

25X1

C. In addition, the Israeli claim to have made a naval attack last night on the

Attached to Cover Sheet A, 15 Oct. 1973

NSS review completed.

TOP SECRET

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Egyptian port of Ras Gharib--an alleged commando staging area--in the southern Gulf of Suez. This was no doubt an effort and forestall any Egyptian landings in the southern Sinai.

II. On the Syrian front, the Israelis still have the initiative, but are only inching toward Damascus. The Syrians are now occupying heavily fortified positions along the approaches to Damascus.

A. The Israelis probably will not advance much further toward Damascus--but will continue to destroy the Syrian forces along the cease-fire line to the south. They appear to have made substantial progress does not either.

1. They are unlikely to transfer substantial forces to the Egyptian front as long as a viable Syrian force is still in the Golan Heights area.

2. They might consider, however, that one armored division could be transferred

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to Sinai. The remaining armored division on the Syrian front will probably remain there as a reserve against any serious Arab counterattack.

D. The Jordanian brigade which entered Syria on October 13 has moved somewhat closer to the Israeli-Syrian battle area, but has not yet joined in the fighting.

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Syrian artillery—long-range equipment supplied by the Soviets—is continuing to plaud the Israeli forces from the right flank. To the left, Moroccans or perhaps Palestinian irregulars are holding the slopes of Mt. Hermon while the Syrians consolidate in front behind Soviet-designed fortifications.

5

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SECRET SPOKE

3

EGYPTIAN FRONT

[redacted]

25X1

25X1

Ground activity appeared to be light early this morning, but-
another Yom Kippur is probably shaping up.

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